

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 254869

43

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, USUN, CA, IS, EG, CY, SY, UR, AS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN CANADIAN UNEF/UNDOF CONTIN-
- GENT

REF: A)USUN 4979; B)OTTAWA 3969

1. WITH REGARD TO REFTEL B, EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW UP ON
SECRETARY'S GENERAL STATEMENTS TO CANADIAN LEADERS ON
MAINTENANCE OF THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE IN UNEF/UNDOF AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 254869

EMPHASIZE TO GOC THAT U.S. CONTINUES TO URGE STRONGLY THAT

CANADIANS MAKE NO REDUCTIONS IN THEIR UNEF/UNDOF CONTINGENTS AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE TO CANADIANS IN RESPONSE TO THEIR INVITATION FOR OUR COMMENTS.

BEGIN TEXT:

IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN CANADIAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN UNEF AND UNDOF, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. THIS IS CRITICAL PERIOD FOR UNEF AND UNDOF. UN SECRETARIAT IS STRIVING TO INSURE THAT UNEF IS CAPABLE

OF ASSUMING EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES CALLED FOR IN NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 4. SUCCESS OF AGREEMENT IN LARGE PART RESTS ON CONFIDENCE OF BOTH PARTIES IN UNEF'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT SUPERVISION OF EGYPTIAN FORWARD MOVEMENT AND OIL FIELD TAKE OVER. IN THE LARGER GEOGRAPHIC AREA THE CONTINUATION OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. UNDOF'S MANDATE MUST BE RENEWED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER AND ANY INDICATIONS OF DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING CONTINGENTS COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON RENEWAL PROCESS. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT CANADIAN COMMITMENT TO UNEF AND UNDOF IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN HELPING TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 4 AGREEMENT AND TO PREVENT ANY DETERIORATION IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA.

3. CANADIAN CONTINGENT HAS BEEN STALWART OF UNEF AND UNDOF OPERATIONS, SUPPLYING VITAL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL, WHICH WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REPLACE. U.S. UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULTIES FOR CANADA IN MAINTAINING NUMBER OF SPECIALIST VOLUNTEERS AND PROBLEMS THAT OLYMPIC GAMES IN SUMMER OF 1976 WILL ENTAIL. HOWEVER WITHDRAWAL BY CANADIANS WILL CREATE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR UN SECRETARIAT STAFF.

4. FURTHER ADVERSE REACTION COULD GO BEYOND LOSS OR
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PAGE 03 STATE 254869

REDUCTION OF CANADIAN CONTINGENTS IN THAT OTHER TRROP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES MIGHT BE INCLINED TO FOLLOW CANADIAN LEAD, AND CHAIN OF REDUCTIONS MIGHT SET IN THAT COULD IMPERIL UNEF'S AND UNDOF'S EFFECTIVE OPERATION.

5. WE ARE NOT FULLY AWARE OF WHAT PROBLEMS SECRETARIAT WOULD FACE IN REPLACING COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL IF CANADIANS CONSIDERED ONLY REDUCING THESE TECHNICAL

SPECIALISTS, BUT SINCE IT APPEARS THAT ALL THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AT ENLARGING EXISTING CONTINGENTS FOR THE EXPANDED ROLE OF UNEF THEY HAVE NOT CONTEMPLATED ADDING A NEW CONTINGENT, SUCH AS THE AUSTRALIANS, WHICH THE CANADIAN RECALL WOULD ENTAIL. CANADIAN RECALL WOULD ADD WHOLE NEW DIMENSION TO PRESENT PROBLEMS.

6. WE WELCOME INDICATIONS THAT CANADA IS CONSIDERING CONTRIBUTING FOUR HELICOPTERS AND WE WOULD URGE THEM TO MAKE SOME SUCH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ENLARGED UNEF AIRCRAFT NEEDS. HOWEVER, AS WELCOME AS THESE AIRCRAFT AND CREWS WOULD BE THEY COULD HARDLY MAKE UP FOR FAILURE OF THE CANADIANS TO MAINTAIN THEIR CONTINGENTS IN UNEF AND UNDOF AT FULL FORCE AT THIS CRITICAL TIME.

7. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH THE GOC ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER BEFORE THE DECISION IS MADE.

END TEXT.

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